

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02175 010131Z

15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 /061 W

----- 122288

R 300928Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5205

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

DOD/ISA

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2175

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, SN, US

SUBJ: STATUS OF SINGAPORE-UK NEGOTIATIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF  
FORMER UK NAVAL BASE FACILITIES

REF: SINGAPORE 2005 (NOTAL)

1. HAVING HEARD NOTHING FOR SOME TIME CONCERNING STATUS OF  
UK-GOS NEGOTIATIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF FORMER UK NAVAL FACIL-  
ITIES (BERTHS 6 AND 7 AT SEMBAWANG AND SENOKO OIL TANK FARM),  
I CALLED ON UK HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER TRIPP APRIL 30 TO  
SEE IF I COULD FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHERE MATTERS STOOD.  
TRIPP TOLD ME THAT SINGAPORE IS ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT  
WITH UK ON THESE FACILITIES FOR BENEFIT OF FIVE POWER DEFENSE  
AGREEMENT (FPDA) MEMBERS BUT EXCLUDING US ON GROUNDS THAT  
SINGAPORE WISHES TO CHARGE US FOR USAGE TO COMPENSATE FOR  
INCREASED CHARGES OF US TRAINING PROVIDED SINGAPORE ARMED  
FORCES MEMBERS. HOWEVER, TRIPP SAID, HE DOUBTS THAT UK WANTS  
TO PROCEED WITH AN AGREEMENT EXCLUDING THE US, AND HENCE IS  
PROBABLY PREPARED TO LET MATTER REST FOR TIME BEING PENDING  
RESOLUTION OF US-GOS ISSUES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02175 010131Z

2. TRIPP RECALLED THAT UK HAD PRESENTED DRAFT AGREEMENT TO MINDEF PERMSEC PANG TEE POW APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO WHICH PROVIDED FOR CONTINUED UK MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES IN QUESTION AND UTILIZATION AT NO CHARGE BY NAVAL VESSELS BOTH OF MEMBERS OF FPDA AND US NAVY. PANG HAD REPLIED THAT SINGAPORE WAS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO AGREE WITH RESPECT TO UK MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION BY FPDA MEMBERS AT NO CHARGE, BUT ADDED THAT DUE TO "OUTRAGEOUS" COSTS WHICH US HAD APPLIED TO SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES FOR TRAINING INTENDED TO CHARGE US FOR USAGE OF BERTHS 6 AND 7. TRIPP HAD REPORTED PANG'S CONVERSATION TO LONDON, BUT HAD TAKEN NO FURTHER ACTION OTHER THAN TO EXPRESS OPINION TO PANG THAT UK WOULD PROBABLY NOT WISH TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE US.

3. THEN, ON APRIL 28 TRIPP RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM PANG IN WHICH LATTER AGAIN STATED SINGAPORE WISHED TO GO AHEAD WITH AGREEMENT BUT EXCLUDING US PENDING RESOLUTION OF TRAINING COSTS ISSUE. TRIPP HAD AGAIN SAID THAT HE DOUBTED UK WOULD WANT TO GO AHEAD WHILE QUESTION OF US USAGE OF BERTHS 6 AND 7 REMAINED UNRESOLVED. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, REPORT TO LONDON. THERE THE MATTER RESTS.

4. TRIPP MENTIONED THAT THE MAIN QUID PRO QUO INVOLVED IN CONTINUED UK MANAGEMENT OF FORMER NAVAL BASE FACILITIES WAS PERMISSION FOR PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY (PSA) TO UTILIZE BERTHS 6 AND 7 WHEN NOT REQUIRED FOR NAVAL USAGE, IN RETURN FOR WHICH PSA WOULD PROVIDE FOR MAINTENANCE OF BERTHING SPACES. THIS WOULD INVOLVE ONLY MINOR EXPENSES SUCH AS REPAIRING ANY DAMAGE WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED TO BERTHS DURING DOCKING OF SHIPS. SINGAPORE APPEARED WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS QUID PRO QUO.

5. COMMENT: IT NOW APPEARS THAT FINAL UK-GOS AGREEMENT ON MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF FORMER NAVAL BASE FACILITIES MAY HINGE UPON RESOLUTION OF US-GOS PROBLEMS ON TRAINING COSTS. I SURMISE FROM TENOR OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN TRIPP AND PANG TEE POW ON APRIL 28 THAT SINGAPORE TEMPERATURES HAVE COOLED SOMEWHAT -- THIS ACCORDS WITH WHAT PANG HAS MENTIONED TO ME ABOUT DROPPING INTENT TO CHARGE US FOR BERTHS 6 AND 7 USAGE IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO CUT COSTS OF COUNTERINSURGENCY COURSE (REFTEL) -- BUT NEVERTHELESS THIS IMPASSE REMAINS TO BE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02175 010131Z

WORKED OUT. COINCIDENTALLY, NO US NAVAL VESSELS HAVE VISITED SINGAPORE DURING THIS TIME FRAME, AND THUS THERE HAS BEEN NO OCCASION TO TEST THE WATER REGARDING SINGAPORE'S ATTITUDE ON US NAVY ACCESS TO SEMBAWANG AND SENOKO FACILITIES PRIOR TO POINT THAT UK AND GOS HAVE ARRIVED AT AN AGREEMENT. I DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS IN MY DISCUSSION WITH TRIPP, BELIEVING THAT ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP IS CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. HOLDRIDGE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SINGAP02175  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760166-0912  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976042/aaaaabgq.tel  
**Line Count:** 115  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SINGAPORE 2005  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS OF SINGAPORE-UK NEGOTIATIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF FORMER UK NAVAL BASE FACILITIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, UK, SN, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006